



Raiders help recruit in Iraq

Spc. Ricardo Branch
1st BCT Public Affairs

CAMP RAMADI, Iraq – Shortly after dawn, men from the city of Ramadi arrived by the hundreds outside the U.S. compound to join the Iraqi army.

The Soldiers from the 1st Brigade, 7th Iraqi Army Division, and their Military Transition Team along with Soldiers from the 1st Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division, held an Iraqi army recruitment drive March 29 through March 31 at Camp Ramadi.

“Today’s recruitment opens new doors for the civilians to become

part of the Iraqi army,” said 1/7 IA Division Sgt. Maj. Monther Kab Mahmoud. “During the past two years, we’ve seen lots of people show up for Iraqi army recruitment. That’s proof that security is set-up in Ramadi, and that the insurgency is getting weaker.”

During the drive, potential recruits were screened for security purposes, literacy, vision, height and weight.

“The recruits who arrived here are being screened under the guidelines set down by the Ministry of Defense,” said Maj. Timothy Schmitt, 1/7 IA MTT.

SEE RECRUIT — PAGE 12A

Training in warfighter skills, preparing for deployment

Master Sgt. Rodney Williams
3rd Sustainment Bde Public Affairs

Soldiers assigned to the Special Troops Battalion, 3rd Sustainment Brigade recently trained on their warrior tasks and drills during their mission rehearsal exercise on Fort Stewart.

Under the guidance of the STB Commander, Lt. Col. Douglas McBride, all STB Soldiers were to be trained and evaluated prior to the unit’s deployment to Iraq.

“There are basic war fighting skills that every soldier must have,” McBride said. “This is an opportunity to allow the Soldiers to deploy with a certain degree of confidence and competence in their war fighting skills.”

Several hundred Soldiers were pushed through 13 stations covering the 41 warrior tasks. If a Soldier showed any deficiency at any one

station, they were taught again and retested.

“It was not just about evaluating and testing,” said Sgt. 1st Class Ronrico Hayes of the 92nd Chemical Company and NCOIC of the training site. “If Soldiers failed to receive a ‘Go’ the first time, they would be retrained and made aware of what they need to do in order to receive a ‘go.’”

92nd Chemical Company was chosen to set up the lanes and lead the validation process for the STB, 3rd SB. The unit itself was validated back in November of last year due to their high alert status of being ready to deploy.

“No Soldier will leave the training site untrained. It is the commanding general’s intent and I think we are meeting that,” added McBride.

See TRAINED — Page 12A



Sgt. 1st Class Thomas Mills

An AH-64D Apache Longbow is directed in for landing at the Savannah Port last week. The Combat Aviation Brigade spent much of last week moving aircrafts and vehicles, and shipping containers to the port in preparation for their deployment.

Department of Defense announces Iraq tour extended to 15 months

Col. Todd Buchs
Fort Stewart / Hunter Army Airfield garrison commander

For the last several months Marne 6 has told commanders, Soldiers and Marne Division families that there was a great possibility that 3rd Infantry Division units may face up to an 18-month tour of duty in Iraq.

The Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of the Army announced Wednesday that active component Army units will now have standard deployments of 15 months.

Those active component units that have already deployed to Iraq will be extended to a 15-month tour.

We understand this is a sacrifice by our Soldiers and families, but these extensions are necessary to meet surge unit requirements. The Army, 3rd Inf. Div. and the United States Army Garrison Fort Stewart and Hunter Army Airfield will continue to do everything in their power to support our families during this difficult time.

We will provide more information as it becomes available.

Family readiness groups help families

Kurt Wolfe
Frontline Staff

At the end of Desert Storm, the Army realized that it needed to take a more proactive approach in supporting families of Soldiers at time of deployment. Rather than just offering assistance to families, it is now about supporting families and empowering them to become self sufficient. So was born the Army’s Family Readiness Group.

Bess Stone is the FRG mobilization deployment specialist. Hardly a day goes by that she doesn’t introduce someone new to the Army world.

“We try and put our Soldiers and families in their comfort zone,” remarks Stone. “I had a young wife come in the other day who had been married about two months. She was not familiar with all the Army acronyms, so

when her husband came home she didn’t understand what he was talking about. She was in a brand new world and didn’t understand anything about the life she had gotten into.”

FRGs are available to Army families at all times, but are particularly important in preparation for a deployment.

“Pre-deployment briefings are scheduled about six weeks prior to a deployment,” notes Stone. “Our meetings help families set up power of attorneys and take care of any last minute personal business. We offer the families an opportunity to know what their spouse’s mission is going to entail. It helps for a spouse to understand where their Soldier is going to be living and what the environment is going to be like.”

See FRG — Page 11A

Easter Sunday sunrise service held at Marne Chapel



Kurt Wolfe

Sunday at dawn, Marne Chapel was filled to capacity in observance of Easter. The Victory Chapel Choir directed by James West, stirred the congregation with vibrant sounds of spiritual music. During the Sunrise service Chap. (Lt. Col) William Ralston, installation chaplain emphasized the three themes of, “Promise, Passion and Purpose.”



Liberty County celebrates Earth Day, See Page 1B

Commissaries recall olives, See Page 1B

DPW Director earns Executive of the Year Award, See Page 6A



Marne 6 Sends

Honoring the Days of Remembrance, helping the innocent

Maj. Gen. Rick Lynch
3rd Inf. Div. commanding general

Think of a child. Big bright eyes, staring up at you. Having no fault. Innocent. What madness would starve her of the opportunity to live, breathe, and fulfill her dreams and her promise?

These are the "Days of Remembrance," part of our monthly reflection on issues of equality and opportunity. April is designated as the month when we, as a nation, pause to remember the holocaust. This year's theme is "Children in Crisis: Voices from the Holocaust."

It is an emotional subject to be sure. There is no denying that the Holocaust took place in Europe in the late 1930s through to the end of World War II. Millions of Jews and others, deemed unacceptable, were murdered because of what and who they were.

There was no consideration of innocence or guilt. There was no implied violation of law. A man, woman, or child was simply born of a certain creed and was therefore judged as unworthy to live.

Sixty years ago another generation of Dog Face Soldiers saw the end of that war and the genocidal behavior that fueled it.

Among the millions to perish were chil-

dren – their images recorded in black and white photos looking back at us from the pages of history. We are reminded of the cruelty they knew. And, we admire the strength of those few who managed to survive.

Many were swept away from families, never to see their parents and siblings again. Flung to the far corners of their world, their identities were stolen forever. Still others were forced into conditions that are unimaginable for us today before imprisonment and ultimate death.

I have read many of their stories. I have heard their poems. I have seen their art. I know that in those years of hatred, the world lost a great treasure of humanity.

Today we are all morally obligated to study the suffering of the Holocaust victims so that we prevent the same in our lives and our lifetime. We can not fool ourselves. The same unconscionable acts are continuing today many places around the world.

On Sept. 11, 2001 children boarded planes and climbed to the tops of the tallest buildings in the world. Others were at home



watching TV. In full view of the entire world, hatred took innocence forever.

Today, in Iraq, children are used as shields for violent acts by extremists. They are often targeted because they are of a different sect.

In his day, Saddam Hussein killed many thousands of his own people because of his hatred for their kind. Others were forcibly moved from their homes. And we see the same acts here today by Al Qaeda and other hateful men.

In many parts of Africa, Asia, Central and South America children are singled out and mistreated because they are weak or vulnerable. To me it is unacceptable.

So when I see pictures of U.S. Soldiers, men and women from a completely different culture, help a child, I swell with emotion. I share the hope that this child will never know the suffering of the victims of the Holocaust. They are judged only as a fellow human being deserving of an opportunity to live and grow and know love.

I know that there is goodness in the hearts of our Soldiers. It is a goodness that comes

first from parents who raised their own children right. It comes from years of training intended to instill a core set of values we all share.

It comes from our shared experience which tells us that strength comes from diversity, that all people are created equal. Each has the God-given right to live free, and accomplish their goals according to the rule of law.

I call on every member of our team to use this month, "The Days of Remembrance" as an opportunity to learn more about the Holocaust. You can visit the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum at www.ushmm.org. You can also learn more by contacting the Division Equal Opportunity representative.

I call on every member of our team to reject the behaviors that lead people to judge and persecute others. Live according to the high standards of our nation and our Army.

Let us all learn the lessons of history so that every child may live to fulfill their dreams. And let this generation of Dog Face Soldiers do its part to protect our world's children in crisis.

**Take care and God bless.
ROCK OF THE MARNE!**

Army Chief of Staff gives farewell message

General Peter J. Schoomaker
Chief of Staff of the Army

April 10, we stood on the parade field at Fort Myer and the mantle of Army Chief of Staff was passed to General George W. Casey. It has been a tremendous privilege and honor to serve alongside you, the Soldiers, Civilians, and family members, who make the Army the world's preeminent land force, the ultimate instrument of national resolve.

Upon becoming 35th Army Chief of Staff in August 2003, I issued an "Arrival Message" to the force. In that message I spoke of standing in an Iranian desert in 1980, on a moonlit night, at a place called Desert One, where eight of our comrades lost their lives and others were forever scarred. I spoke of keeping a photo of the carnage that night to remind me of the grief and failure of that mission and the commitment survivors of that operation made to a different future.

Having now been in this Army for almost four decades, and having seen the Army my father served in for 32 years before that, I can tell you in no uncertain terms that today's battle-hardened Army does, in fact, reflect the different "future" we envisioned.

Standing on the shoulders of those who have gone before us, the men and women of today's Army have remained focused on our nonnegotiable responsibility to the Nation. For almost 232 years, the Army has never failed the American people, and it never will. We have been resolute in the pursuit of our four overarching strategies – providing relevant and ready landpower; training and equipping Soldiers to serve as warriors and growing adaptive leaders; sustaining the all-volunteer force composed of highly competent Soldiers who are provided a quality of life commensurate with the level of their service; and providing infrastructure and support to enable the force to fulfill its strategic roles and missions. Furthermore, instead of reigning-in our drive to transform during a time of war, we have leveraged opportunities in this conflict to establish and accelerate the momentum necessary to reshape the entire force into a more capable campaign-quality force with vastly improved joint and expeditionary capabilities.

Specifically, as we serve alongside our joint and allied partners in Iraq, Afghanistan, and elsewhere, we have improved the Army's ability to operate and dominate in any environment against current, emerging, and unforeseen threats. While working to grow the Regular Army by 30,000 since 2004, we now have authority to permanently increase our endstrength by over 74,000 Soldiers across all components – Active, National Guard, and Army Reserve. We have created far more capable and strategically deployable brigade-sized formations that are designed to receive and integrate new technologies and equipment as soon as they become available. There has been a significant expansion and enhancement of Army Special Operations Forces. We have and are continuing to increase Soldier and unit effectiveness and protection, as evidenced in our reset efforts and modernization plans. We have been developing a forward-looking doctrine which guides how we organize, train, fight, and sustain our forces. Finally, and perhaps most importantly given that Soldiers are our centerpiece, the Army's intellectual and cultural transformation is creating and maintaining a learning and adaptive force that will dramatically improve how we face future challenges. We are growing innovative Soldiers and pentathlete leaders through training and education built on recent combat experience. Literally, every aspect of today's Army has been touched by change, with the exception of our enduring values.

During my tenure as Army Chief of Staff, I have seen our Soldiers continuously demonstrate why they are our greatest strength. Their adherence to the Warrior Ethos is as inspiring as it is necessary. Their ability to learn and adapt as we fight an ever-changing enemy and transform to meet complex future threats is essential. Their dedication and optimism about our future are contagious.

We must never forget that war is fought in the human dimension. Therefore, technology will always play an important but distinctly secondary role, because even our most sophisticated satellites and computers cannot get into the mind of the enemy, interact with local leaders, understand other societies and cultures, or make the instantaneous life or death decisions required to meet our 21st century challenges.

Men and women with their "boots on the ground" are necessary to do all this.

Let there be no mistake, fighting and adapting today, while transforming for an uncertain and complex future against traditional, irregular, catastrophic, and disruptive threats is vital to America's security. Although those in uniform have borne a disproportionate burden during the opening engagements of this Long War, we are not fighting and cannot win this war alone. Defeating our enemies requires a shared understanding of the threat and a strategic consensus. It requires a concerted effort, utilizing all elements of power – diplomatic, informational, military, and economic. Finally, it requires a national commitment to recruit, train, equip, and support those in uniform and their families, something that is a matter of priorities, not affordability.

While prudence cautions against ignoring the effect of war weariness and our tendency toward cyclic national defense flat-footedness, let me assure you that from my vantage point, our men and women in uniform continue to enjoy the admiration and appreciation of every American. This is reflected both in public opinion and the Congress. This support has been and will be critical as we continue to fight this Long War.

The road ahead will not be easy and the stakes could not be higher. While there is much we don't know, I can say with certainty that sustained engagement of our Army will remain the norm, not the exception. Therefore, the Army must continue to demonstrate initiative, resilience, and innovation at all levels. The Army must continue to adhere to its non-negotiable Values and the Warrior Ethos. The Army must continue to learn and adapt. Yet despite challenges, everything I have seen as Army Chief of Staff encourages me.

When recalled from retired rolls nearly four years ago, I stated that "as an American Soldier, I had never left your ranks." It has been a great privilege to wear the uniform once again. I remain forever humbled by the courage, dedication, and selfless service of those who preceded us and those who remain in service to our Country. I am proud of you. You are indeed Army Strong!

God bless you – the United States Army.

Meet the 3rd Infantry Division Command Sergeant Major



Sgt. Maj. Jesse Lee Andrews
3rd Inf. Div. Command Sgt. Maj.

Marne Team, it gives me great pleasure to introduce myself to you as the new Marne 7. I am Command Sgt Maj. Jesse Lee Andrews, and I am proud to be a Soldier. I began my Army career at Fort Stewart 26 years ago as a cavalry scout assigned to Combat Support Group, 5th Battalion, 32nd Armor, 24th Infantry Division (Mechanized). Now, I'm back to serve the Soldiers, family members, civilians and community partners of the coastal Georgia area to the fullest of my capabilities from my position.

I am of the son of Hattie Bell Murray, and I recently married Frankie E. Andrews. I have a 15-year-old daughter, Kionna Mone.

I've been an NCO for 23 years. I graduated from the U.S. Army Sergeants Major Academy-Class 51, and since then I've served as the regimental operations sergeant major for 16th Cavalry Regiment, out of Fort Knox, Ky., and again at Fort Knox as the command sergeant major for 2nd Battalion, 69th Armor Regiment during Operation Iraqi Freedom I. I also served our 3rd Brigade Combat Team located at Kelley Hill, Fort Benning, Ga., as the brigade command sergeant major during OIF III.

Since joining this great team I've noticed that Dog Face Soldiers have an undaunted and motivated attitude. Continue to stay focused because we have a great mission, which is to assist the government of Iraq in securing their freedoms and ridding their streets of tyrants.

Noncommissioned officers, your first priority should be safety and security in everything we do. Discipline and standard equals non-complacency. This is the time to lean forward in the saddle and not forget that we are conducting combat operations. As the other brigade combat teams from Fort Stewart prepare to join us, remember this mission is a team effort. Expect to work with members from our sister services, our allies and civilians from our great country who have joined us in the fight.

I would like to thank the 3rd Inf. Div. commanding general Maj. Gen. Rick Lynch, for giving me the opportunity to serve as his battle buddy. I would also be remiss if I didn't wish the former Marne 7, Command Sgt. Maj. John Calpena, his wife Bertha and son, J.D., much success in their future endeavors.

**Soldier hard and be Marne Strong
Rock of the Marne**

A Snapshot from Fort Stewart's Museum Archives



Early 2006 the Third Infantry Division dedicated Fort Stewart's new Troop Medical Clinic to Lloyd C. Hawks, the Army's most decorated combat medic. Here is the comic strip dedicated to the war hero.

3rd Combat Aviation Brigade ships out

Pfc. Monica K. Smith
CAB Public Affairs

Last week Soldiers and civilians worked alongside each other preparing helicopters to be loaded on ships as the Aviation Brigade at Hunter Army Airfield readies to deploy to Iraq.

This is first time Soldiers have worked with Defense Support Services, the company usually managing port operations.

Billy J. Carpenter, team leader for DSS said he had apprehensions on how the Soldiers and civilians would work together.

“It was a pretty good experience,” said Carpenter. “I was pleased with the way we were able to come together. It’s not very often we get to work side-by-side with Soldiers. This gives the Soldiers experience and practice with port operations because usually the civilians take care of it.”

The Soldier’s had the opportunity to watch the more experienced civilian group as they quickly worked on the various helicopters.

“It shows you what it’s like to do it when you have a lot of experience,” said Spc. Mark A. Johnson, a Chinook mechanic with B Co., 4th Battalion, 3rd Aviation Regiment. “They’ve seen everything and they’re pretty high-speed.”

All of last week CAB helicopters flew into the Savannah Port where they were prepared for loading onto a ship headed for Kuwait.

Each morning Soldiers from Hunter would arrive at the docks around 7:30 a.m. joining the civilian workers and the nearby safety personnel. Breakfast consisted of a Meal Ready to Eat followed by a preliminary foreign object debris walk. During a FOD walk, Soldiers and civilians walk across the landing site picking up loose articles that could become projectiles from the winds created by the rotor blades. Depending on the aircraft, winds generated from the blades can exceed 100 mph.

The aircraft began arriving between 8 and 9 a.m. with Apaches flying in on Monday. Blackhawks flew to the port Tuesday, Chinooks on Wednesday, 58s on Thursday and then all were loaded on the ship Friday.

Each aircraft is prepared for shipping in a different way. The Apaches main rotor blades were taken off the body of the aircraft and stored in large containers for travel. The Blackhawks do not require to have their rotor blades taken off. The

Blackhawk’s tail rotor blades are rotated to become parallel to each other and a foam padding is placed between the blades to protect them during shipping. Then the main rotor blades are unhooked from the rotor, folded back and latched to the tail of the helicopter with two pins. The Chinook’s blades are more like the Apache’s design.

“With the Blackhawk, the blades stay on the aircraft ,but the Chinooks are a little more difficult because here we take the blades off and store them inside the aircraft,” said Johnson. “They weigh about 353 pounds and we get as many guys as we can to carry them but we’ve done it with two people before.”

The blades are stored inside the aircraft in a compartment holding 12 blades - enough for two Chinooks. The blade compartments are along the side of the aircraft leaving space down the middle for supplies and extra storage. Of the twelve helicopters, one half holds the blades opening up space in the other aircrafts for storage.

The Kiowas are a smaller helicopter, unique in its design. The other helicopters have wheels to assist in transporting the aircraft from the dock to the hangar, whereas the Kiowas have skid tubes.

In order to move the Kiowas into the hangar the entire helicopter is lifted and wheels are placed under the skid tubes like dollies.

Each helicopter is particular in how it is stored and preparing them can become time consuming. However, the civilians and the Soldiers say they soon learned to move quickly and efficiently.

“After the first two you start to get into a groove and then it takes about 45 minutes to collapse the tail and fold all the main rotor blades and do anything else that might come up,” said Pfc. Steven L. Black, Blackhawk mechanic for B Co. 4/3 Avn.

A total of 114 aircraft were loaded onto the ships Friday.

Chief Warrant Officer Art J. Gribensk, brigade aviation maintenance officer, CAB, said despite this being the first time to have Soldiers and civilians working in port operations, it was “one magnificent effort and teamwork between the green-suits and the blue-suits, between the civilian support and our Soldiers.”



Sgt. 1st Class Thomas Mills

An AH-64D Apache Longbow is pushed into a building at the Savannah Port after being prepared to be loaded onto a ship. The Combat Aviation Brigade has loaded most of their aircraft on a ship for their deployment to Iraq this summer.

photo by Sgt. 1st Class Thomas Mills

Graphic Illustration by: Spc. Marques Hunt

Pfc. Monica K. Smith

Pfc. Monica K. Smith

Above: Sgt. Jared Lumpkin, D Co. 4/3 Avn., works with a civilian from Defense Support Services, atop an aircraft at the Savannah Port last week.

Top left: Kiowa Warriors from 3/17 Cav. land at Hunter Army Airfield after traveling from Fort Drum New York. The OH-58D pilots stopped at Hunter briefly for fuel before flying to the Savannah port to prepare their aircraft to load on ships bound for Kuwait.

Bottom left: Sgt. James Davis, D Co. 2/3 Avn, secures a CH-47D Chinook helicopter rotor blade inside the aircraft.



Department of the Army: Earth Day message

Pete Geren
Acting Secretary of the Army

Today our Army continues to wage the long struggle against global terrorism while simultaneously transforming ourselves to meet the challenges of tomorrow. To achieve success, we must acknowledge the conditions that place greater stress on the world's interconnected human, economic, and natural systems. Most importantly, we must respond accordingly – we must act today to preserve our future. On this Earth Day we remind ourselves that, while we remain 'Army Strong' to ensure the defense of this great Nation, we must also remain good stewards of our environment to preserve it for future genera-

tions. Ours is a strong, sustainable Army with the vision to address uncertainties at home and on the battlefield, to coexist with local communities, and to enhance the environment that sustains their well being. Sustainable practices such as water conservation, greater fuel efficiency, and use of renewable energy allows our Army to travel farther, deploy longer, and reduce dependence on traditional supply lines and reduce our impact on natural resources. Sustainability further enhances our business transformation by eliminating waste, driving innovation, and promoting collaboration across the entire Army. Ours is a strong, sustainable Army that shares its strength with others. As we realign the infrastructure of our installations,

depots, and arsenals, we will seek opportunities to work with our neighbors to sustain access to shared resources, and create the kinds of communities that promote well being for the entire Army family. On this Earth Day, we as an Army reaffirm our commitment to sustainability. The Army - every Soldier, every civilian, every contractor, and every family member - must make the personal commitment to do everything possible to ensure a strong, sustainable Army. It is vital that we continue to implement innovative policies and practices that well protect our natural resources for future generations.

Army Strong - Today and Tomorrow!

Abandoning vehicle is unsightly, expensive

Command Sgt. Maj. Charles E. Durr, Jr.
Garrison Command Sgt. Major

Spring Clean up for Fort Stewart and Hunter Army Airfield is scheduled for April 16-20.

A major area of emphasis and key component in maintaining high appearance standards on the installation is identification and disposal of abandoned vehicles.

Effective April 16, military police patrols across both Fort Stewart and Hunter Army Airfield will begin an aggressive campaign in identifying and marking suspected abandoned, inoperative or unregistered privately owned vehicles

The process described below will be our primary means of ridding the installation of abandoned vehicles:

1) Commanders, first sergeants and military police patrols will identify vehicles suspected to be abandoned (permanently or for the duration of a deployment), inoperative, or unregistered (no valid license plates) and report them to the military police for processing.

These leaders will do this as they go about their daily business around unit areas, troop barracks, parking lots and housing areas.

2) Once a vehicle is identified, a check of its status will be made by military police through the Georgia Crime Information Center database.

3) Vehicles suspected to fit one of the criteria

above will then be marked with a Department of Defense Form 2505 across the front windshield and the information will be logged into the military police database.

This action starts a 72-hour clock.

4) The Traffic Section will attempt to notify the owner of the vehicle within the 72-hour period by using the privately owned vehicle Vehicle Information Number, DOD decals, or license plate.

5) About 72 hours later, if no contact is made with the individual, the vehicle will be towed from the installation at the owners expense.



Note: When and if the military police confirms that a previously tagged vehicle has been moved to another location and the DD Form 2505 removed, the vehicle will be towed immediately. Sample charges a Soldier could incur are as follows:

Fort Stewart \$80 towing fee
\$6 a day storage fee up to 45 days
(\$6.00 x 45 days = \$270)
\$80 + \$45 = \$395
\$45 disposition fee

Hunter AAF \$95 towing fee
\$ 6 a day storage fee up to 45 days
(\$6 x 45 days = \$270)
\$95 + \$45 = \$410
\$45 disposition fee

“ROCK OF THE MARNE!”

NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY

Environmental Assessment and draft
Finding of no significant impact

For the Construction of Artillery Point 311,
Fort Stewart, Ga.

The Department of the Army hereby gives notice of availability of a Draft EA for the construction, training, operation, and maintenance of Artillery Firing Point 311, Fort Stewart, GA. To accomplish the artillery training mission, Training Command must train field artillery soldiers in tactics, techniques, and procedures for the employment of fire support systems in support of the maneuver commander. Training Command further develops leaders who are tactically and technically proficient, develops and refines war-fighting doctrine, and designs units capable of winning on future battlefields. The modern field artillery officer is trained to know all the artillery weapons, fire direction operations, and target acquisition systems and how to employ them in support of combined arms operations. To meet this need, the development of realistic training sites and optimum utilization of these sites at the home bases of the field artillery unit is required.

The EA addresses the potential impacts to the human environment to include wetlands, cultural resources, threatened and endangered species, and all other components of the surrounding environment. The EA, resulting in a draft FONSI, indicates that no significant adverse impacts would result from the proposed action. A copy of the EA and draft FONSI will be available for public review from April 13 to May 14 at the following public libraries. All public review comments must be received no later than May 14.

Fort Stewart Main Post Library, Building 411, 316 Lindquist Rd., Fort Stewart, GA.
Monday – Thursday 10:30 a.m. to 9 p.m.
Friday - closed
Saturday-Sunday 11:30 a.m. to 6: p.m.

Liberty County Public Library, 236 Memorial Drive, Hinesville, GA
Monday – Thursday 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.
Friday – Saturday 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Sunday 2 - 6 p.m.

Mall Branch Library, 7 Mall Annex, Savannah, GA
Monday – Thursday 9 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.
Friday – Sat. 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Sunday 2 -6 p.m.


Request all comments be mailed to the following address:
Chief, Environmental Division, Thomas C. Fry
Directorate of Public Works
Headquarters, Fort Stewart
1550 Frank Cochran Drive, Bldg. 1137
Fort Stewart, GA 31314-4927

Marne Voices Speak Out

What advice would you give to help protect against sexual assault?

“I have suggested to my wife that if she is going to a place at night that she has someone with her.”

Lewis Henderson
Retired Air Force

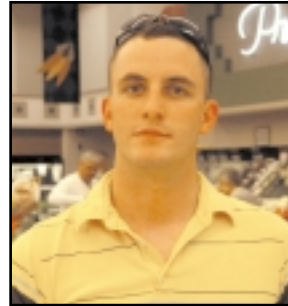



“Parents should (raise) young ladies (to) wear proper attire so that they are not enticing.”

Barbara McBride
Civilian

“Have your keys out when you're walking. Carry a cell phone with you.”

Shawnee Arnold
Spouse of Soldier





“Avoid places where you're unprotected.”

Pfc. Anthony Graves
3/7 Calvary

“I suggest you take a different route each night and always be aware of your surroundings.”

Tina Woodford
Army Spouse



“I would suggest people take a self defense class and let someone know where you are going.”

Spc. Christopher Molina
MSC

Voice your opinion!
Write a letter to the editor!

Send to:
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GARRISON COMMANDER COL. TODD A. BUCHS

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Dog Face Voices

What's the best thing you ever received in a care package?



"One Christmas, my mom sent us a whole box of cookies."

Spc. Leann Abernathy
HHOC, STB



"Pictures of my kids."

Staff Sgt. Leonard Elkins
HHSC, STB



"I got a fishing hat."

Sgt. Aaron Hudson
3rd Sig. Co., STB



"A bunch of CDs from a friend's high school class."

Maj. Edward Nickerson
HHOC, STB

From the Front



Spc. Ricardo Branch

Five day operation results in 1 terrorist killed, 13 suspects detained

Special to the Frontline

BAGHDAD, Iraq – During a recent five-day operation in Arab Jabour which wrapped up April 10, Coalition Forces killed one terrorist, detained 13 others and destroyed several weapons caches.

Included in the weapons caches found, Coalition Forces discovered numerous rocket-propelled grenades and launchers, several improvised explosive devices, thousands of anti-aircraft ammunition rounds and three

buildings containing large amounts of IED-making materials.

The weapons caches were destroyed on site to prevent future use by terrorists.

No civilians were injured during the five-day operation.

"Coalition Forces continue to take apart the al-Qaeda network inside Iraq," said Lt. Col. Christopher Garcer, MNF-I spokesperson.

"This operation is a concerted effort to reduce this VBIED terrorist network's ability to operate."



Courtesy Photo

Raids kill terrorist, detain suspects

Special to the Frontline

BAGHDAD, Iraq – Coalition Forces killed one terrorist and detained 12 suspected terrorists during operations targeting al-Qaeda in Iraq April 10.

During operations south of Haditha, Coalition Forces killed one terrorist and detained three suspects with alleged involvement in al-Qaeda and foreign fighter facilitation. As Coalition Forces entered a targeted building, they instructed the occupants to put

their hands up. One man, who initially complied with instructions, rushed and tackled a Coalition Forces member and attempted to grab his weapon. Coalition Forces used self-defense measures killing the terrorist. The remaining suspects surrendered without incident. In Baghdad, Coalition Forces detained nine suspects with ties to al-Qaeda in Iraq courier operations.

"Terrorists will be brought to justice and will be prosecuted for their crimes," said Lt. Col. Christopher Garcer, MNF-I spokesperson.

Coalition forces capture Al Qaeda

Special to the Frontline

BAGHDAD, Iraq – Coalition Forces captured five suspected terrorists including the suspected al-Qaeda in Iraq security emir of Arab Jabour during an operation Wednesday morning.

Intelligence reports indicate that the security emir is suspected of involvement in planning attacks against Iraqi and Coalition Forces in the Arab Jabour area.

Coalition Forces found several small arms at the targeted area and these weapons were destroyed to prevent future use by terrorists.

DPW director earns prestigious award

Jennifer Scales

Frontline Staff

Michael Biering, Director of Public Works for Fort Stewart and Hunter Army Airfield, has been selected as the winner of the William C. Gribble Jr., DPW Executive of the Year for 2006.

"This award brings recognition to Fort Stewart and Hunter, and their great civilian work force, great family, and great Soldiers who are all fighting the war for a third time," said Biering. "I take no credit for this. It all goes to the spectacular staff that I have here not only in DPW, but also to the other directors across the installation here and at Hunter. What a great bunch of people to work with. What a great honor to serve these great Soldiers and at least participate a little bit in the sacrifice they are making for us."

Biering's nomination packet was prepared by the staff at DPW and sent to the Southeast Region for viewing. The Installation Management Command made the final selection.

Fort Stewart and Hunter have made great strides in facility management under the leadership of Biering and has set the standard for many programs, especially environmental, according to Paul Andreshak, Fort Stewart deputy garrison commander.

"He is a man of integrity who does what is right for the Soldiers, civilians, retirees, and family members that make up the installation population," Andreshak said.

His award also brings a spotlight to the installation.

"Any time you have a winning program, you are going to be looked at," said Andreshak.

"DPW, along with many of the other winning efforts by other directorates within the garrison is what makes Fort Stewart/Hunter Army Airfield the Army Community of Excellence that it is and will continue to be into the future."

Seven individuals and two organizational DPW awards for the 2006 awards afforded garrisons the opportunity to recognize excellence in management and execution of the public

works, base operations, real property maintenance, and Army family housing missions. Regional directors were encouraged to fully support the program and recognize exceptional members of the IMCOM team.

The other six individual of the year awards in DPW for 2006 in the running were for the following: Engineering, Plans, and Services Executive; Business Management Executive; Housing Executive; Operations and Maintenance Executive; Support Executive, and Region Support Executive.



Jennifer Scales

Michael Biering, director of DPW

Connectivity with God, keep the light shining

Chap. (Lt. Col.) Harlon Triplett

Division Chaplain

I am a car guy.

I try fighting it but I just can't overcome the urge to read car magazines and watch all of the automotive shows that are on television every weekend. My favorite channel, by far, is the SPEED Channel.

I can't help it. Memories of my 57 Chevy are in every spiraled molecular chain of my DNA (which according to some are coming unraveled at a rapid rate because of my advanced age).

I come about being a car guy naturally. My dad was a car guy, my grandfather was a car guy and all my male relatives have

Pennzoil SAE 10W40 running through their veins. I literally grew up at my father's CITGO station between 1961 and 1969.

I really love cars and I can identify cars so well that I can tell which make and model they are even if they are under a car cover. So as I was driving down State Street in Erie Pa., on a cold, snowy January night in 1981 to conduct a pastoral call to one of the parishioners in my civilian church, I was quite interested to see if I could identify the makes and models of crushed cars on a car carrier that was hauling them to be melted.

As I studied the cars intensely I noticed something about one of the cars that I will never forget and that still astounds me after 26 years. One of the crushed cars on the

very bottom of the stack had a tail light still burning. Despite the fact that it was crushed flat and going for its last ride on that flat bed truck, the tail light was still burning. Although very dim, it was still shining.

As I ran through the mechanical and electrical reasons why and how that could have happened, I have come to the logical conclusion that there was a connection, somehow, from the battery to the tail light. The connection from the battery to the tail light had not been broken despite the fact that the car had gone through the crusher.

I try to learn something every day and that night I learned a lot about God by noticing that dimly burning tail light. I

learned that no matter how badly life has crushed a person (like the Biblical character Job) if you maintain connectivity with God, your light can still shine.

Some problem or issue may be crushing you on this deployment. Some financial, marital, Army, or personal problem may be trying to smash you flat.

Stay connected to God through reading your Scriptures, attending chapel services, and through prayer and fellowship. Stay connected with your unit ministry team too. They can help you stay connected to God.

By the way, the car was a 1969 Ford Mustang...I could tell by the bumper... what a waste of a classic car!

Fort Stewart /Hunter Army Airfield Briefs

Work as youth volunteer

The American Red Cross Summer Youth Program begins June 11 and concludes July 20. Applications are available at the American Red Cross Office, building 253, Suite 2074. Students must complete youth volunteer application packets and attend orientation by May 31. Work permits must be obtained for all youth under the age of 18. For more information call ARC office at 767-2197. Youth orientations will be held in the Patriot Auditorium, Winn Army Community Hospital 9:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m., May 31. If interested in obtaining a youth volunteer for placement to assist this summer, contact the American Red Cross, at 767-2197.

Healthier Feds initiative targets employees

Healthier Feds provides information and education to Federal employees and retirees about healthy living, greater individual responsibility for personal health, and best-treatment strategies. The U.S. Office of Personnel Management is working with Federal agency fitness and wellness leaders to promote healthy behavior decisions among Federal employees. For more information visit www.healthierfeds.opm.gov.

Stewart

Marne/Hunter Tax Center

Free filing for Soldiers, their dependants and retirees 8:30

a.m. – 4 p.m., until April 16 at the Marne Bldg. 9611, National Guard Training Area. Call 315-3675.

Register to “Walk to Iraq and Back”

Show support to deployed Soldiers by joining Fort Stewart and Hunter Army Airfield in a 13,000 mile ‘Walk to Iraq and Back.’ The event kicks off at 8:30 a.m., May 5, in front of Newman Fitness Center. Supporters at the kick off will receive a free water bottle.

Registration forms are now available at the Family Readiness Center and in the Frontline, page 4A. You can drop off your forms at the FRC, the Post Exchange, the commissary, or you can scan your registration forms to www.walktoiraqandback@gmail.com. For more information, contact Amy Lambert at 320-5400 or Lt. Col. Ellen Birch at 767-4207.

Support local Special Olympics

The 3rd Infantry Division, and Fort Stewart and Hunter Army Airfield will host the Spring Special Olympics 8 a.m. to 2 p.m., April 27 at the Fort Stewart Quick track, across from Newman Fitness Center. For more information, contact Army Community Services at 767-2587.

April is ‘Autism Awareness Month’

In recognition of Autism Awareness Month, Dr. Damian

Ternullo, Chief EFMP, Winn Army Community Hospital will provide a presentation on: "Autism," 6-7 p.m. April 19, at the Family Readiness Center, Bldg. 87. Call 767-2587 for more information.

Honor 3 Infantry Division heroes at Tree Dedication Ceremony

The 3rd Infantry Division, Fort Stewart and Hunter Army Airfield installations will host a Tree Dedication Ceremony in honor of our fallen comrades at 11 a.m., April 19 at Warrior's Walk.

RSVP April 13 by calling 767-8779 or emailing protocol1@stewart.army.mil. The attire is duty uniform for military or business attire for civilians.

Hunter

Hunter's first Tour of Homes slated for April 29

The Hunter Spouses' Club will sponsor 10 homes from New Savannah, New Callaway, New Gannon and Wilson Acres neighborhoods at Hunter Army Airfield for a tour 2 – 5 p.m., April 29.

A professional will be available for tips on how to increase the market value of your home.

Tickets, \$10 in advance of the event and \$12 on event day, can be purchased from club members by calling 315-3780, or emailing HunterHomeTour@aol.com.



Resident Maintenance Satisfaction

The following outlines how to initiate a work order, and a sequence of phone numbers that can be used in the event complete satisfaction was not achieved during the initial repair. To initiate a work order, call the GMH work order desk at Stewart 408-2466, Hunter 459-2147. If experiencing a lack of satisfaction, call the GMH Facility Manager at

Stewart 408-2483, Hunter 459-2150.

If your issue is not resolved, call the GMH Community Manager at Stewart 408-2471, Hunter 459-2140. If your issue is still not resolved, Call the GMH Project Director's Office at 408-2464. Residential Communities Initiatives Office Quality Assurance Branch may also assist you at 767-2990.

Recycling in Family Housing

Residents are reminded that recycling is mandatory on both Stewart and Hunter. If collection personnel discover trash mixed with recyclables, or recyclables mixed with

trash, the container will not be emptied until it is separated properly. If a resident does not have a poly cart for trash or a blue poly cart for recyclables, please contact the GMH work order line at 408-2466, Stewart and 459-2147, Hunter, to request to have one delivered.

Hunter

Help stop sewer blockages

Hunter has been experiencing main line sewer blockages in the housing areas due to grease blockages.

When oil or grease from cooking is poured

down the drain, it can build up and plug drain lines.

You must all refrain from disposing any material and substances down the drain that may clog up the system.

Remember, greasy pans should be wiped with paper towels or grease should be placed into a container to solidify and then disposed of in the regular garbage.

So please do not dispose of grease down the sink drain, toilets or the garbage disposal as it will not keep grease out of the sewer system, and it will eventually cause the system to back up possibly into your home.



Justice Served

OMPF Filed General Officer Memoranda of Reprimand for DUI Offenses

Specialist, 1/9 FA, REFUSAL

Private 1st Class, 1/30 Inf., BAC .108

Private 1st Class, 3/7 Inf., BAC .166

Locally Filed General Officer Memoranda of Reprimand for DUI Offenses

Private 1st Class, 1/64 AR, BAC .224

Sergeant, 703 BSB, BAC .125

Specialist, 703 BSB, BAC .083

Private, 3/7 Inf., BAC .153

Legal Notice

Anyone having claims against, or who is indebted to the estate of **Sgt. Adrian J. Lewis**, D Co, 3rd Bn., 69th Armor Regiment, Fort Stewart, Ga, 31314 contact 1st Lt. Clinton, B Co, 3rd Bn. 69th Regiment, Fort Stewart, Ga 31314 at (912) 315-7292. (3)

Spotlight Directorate of Emergency Services

Special to the Frontline

Randall Dutkiewicz has been the Directorate of Emergency Services Emergency Management Officer for approximately two years, but held other law enforcement positions. The administrative support branch is responsible for providing operational and management support to the fire departments, law enforcement section, physical security, 911, and conservation law enforcement branches for Fort Stewart and Hunter Army Airfield. This also includes the vehicle registration offices and installation access control.

The DES has the additional responsibilities for coordinating all plans and operations, law enforcement training curriculum for both military and Department of the Army civilian police, and oversight of management and operations of the contract security guard force via the contract officer technical representative.

Dutkiewicz joined the United States Military Police Corps in 1988 and served as a military police officer until 1994. He was

stationed both in Europe and here at Fort Stewart. He attended the Georgia Police Academy and graduated as a certified police officer in December 1994. Following graduation, he became a deputy sheriff in McIntosh County.

Dutkiewicz sought career advancement in 1995 and relocated to the metropolitan Atlanta area. Until 2004, Dutkiewicz was employed with the Doraville Police Department in Atlanta. During his tenure with the Doraville Police department, he progressed to the rank of Lieutenant and served as a detective, K-9 handler, Internal Affairs investigator and a certified SWAT team member.

In April 2004, he became a Department of the Army police officer and was assigned to Hunter Army Airfield as a watch commander. In October 2005, he became the DES Emergency Management Officer.

The administrative support branch can be reached Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 7:30 a.m. - 4 p.m. and

Thursday from noon -4 p.m. at 767-8495.

The administrative support branch is closed on weekends and federal holidays.



Randall Dutkiewicz

Military retirement system explained

Special to the Frontline

There are three retired pay plans for computing length-of-service retired pay. The "date of initial entry into military service," also called the DIEMS date, determines the plan that you fall under. The DIEMS date isn't used to calculate your retired pay. Retired pay is calculated using your basic active service date and pay entry basic date.

A DIEMS date is the earliest date of enlistment, induction, or appointment in a regular or Reserve component of a uniformed service as a commissioned officer, warrant officer or enlisted member. It is rarely the same as the BASD and often earlier than the PEBD.

Final Base Pay System

Members with a DIEMS prior to September 8, 1980 retire under this system, which is 50 percent of basic pay after 20 years of military service plus 2.5 percent for each additional year up to a

maximum of 75 percent. Cost of Living Adjustments are added annually based on the increase in the Consumer Price Index. Under the Final Basic Pay System, the annual COLA is equal to CPI.

High-three System

Members with a DIEMS between Sept. 8, 1980 and July 31, 1986 retire under the High-three System. In addition, this plan will also apply to an individual who has a DIEMS on or after Aug. 1, 1986 who does not elect the REDUX retirement system with the career retention bonus at their 15th year of service. Retired pay is computed using 50 percent of the average of the "high three" or 36 months of basic pay for 20 years with 2.5 percent for each additional year up to a maximum of 75 percent. This multiplier is applied against the average basic pay for the highest 36 months of the individual's career. This typically, though not always, equals the average basic pay for the final three years of

service. Like the Final Basic Pay System, under the High-three System, the annual COLA is equal to CPI.

Members with a DIEMS on or after Aug. 1, 1986 have a choice of two retirement options: (1) Retire under the High-three System; or (2) Retire under provisions of the Military Retirement Reform Act, also known as REDUX, and elect to receive a \$30,000 career retention bonus. If the member chooses to retire under REDUX, retired pay is computed using 40 percent of the "high-three" years of service for 20 years of service with an additional 3.5 percent for each additional year up to a maximum of 75 percent. In addition, annual cost of living adjustments for retirees are one percentage point less than inflation, as measured by the CPI. At age 62, retired pay will be recomputed under the "high-three" formula discussed above; however, the recomputation will not be retroactive. Under

REDUX, the longer an individual stays on active duty, the closer the retired pay percentage multiplier is to what it would have been under the "high-three" plan, up to the 30 year point where the percentage multipliers are equal.

If you have questions on any of the three retirement systems please contact the Retirement Services Office located in the Soldier's Service Center, Suite 1071. Hours are 1-4 p.m. daily, or call 912-767-3326.

Deployment Prayer Service

A deployment prayer service for the Soldiers and family members of the 3rd Sustainment Brigade will be hosted by the First United Methodist Church on the corner of Main St. and Memorial Dr. at 6 p.m., April 19. After the service attendees are encouraged to join the Soldiers for refreshment and fellowship. For more information contact Chaplain (Maj.) Addison Burgess at 767-3251.



\$7500
REWARD
(0024-07-CID093-10962)



A reward of \$7500 is being offered for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the person(s) responsible for a fire which occurred on Jan. 26, at 43 Murray Ave., Fort Stewart, Ga. 31314.

Anyone having knowledge of the incident, but not wishing to be identified, will be briefed on available options in maintaining their confidentiality. Those with information concerning this matter are encouraged to call the U.S. Army Criminal Investigation Division office located on Stewart at 912-767-4374. For more information, contact Special Agent Leif Erickson, or the Fort Stewart Military Police Desk at 912-767-4895.

Reward offer expires March 13, 2008

CEDRIC DAVIS, JR.

**JOINED THE ACTIVE ARMY
BECAME RANGER QUALIFIED.**

**JOINED THE ARMY RESERVE
NAMED THE 108TH DIVISION
DRILL SERGEANT OF THE YEAR.**

**BECAME A CIVILIAN
WORKING AS AN
ACCOMPLISHED ACTOR.**

WE'LL KEEP YOU MARCHING FORWARD.



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ARMY RESERVE

Cedric Davis' goal has always been to be the best Soldier he can be. He not only uses the bravery, integrity and self-confidence he's gained to sharpen his skills as a Soldier, but also to pursue his career as an actor. And he succeeded. By joining the Army Reserve you can, too. While continuing to serve your country, you'll also get a bonus, extra paycheck and the chance to train near home. Learn more about SFC Cedric Davis, Jr. and how you can build a future filled with possibilities. Visit goarmyreserve.com/cedric or call 800-USA-ARMY.



FRG

From Page 1A

It is a formidable task to support the families of the entire 3rd Infantry Division, but through the dedication of numerous volunteers, as well as a paid staff of FRG assistants at the brigade level, the challenge is met.

Vickie Wiginton, is the Army volunteer corps coordinator. Her pride in her work is reflected in the volunteers she coordinates.

"It really is all about pride," says Wiginton. "The volunteers put a lot of heart into their jobs. We team them in their special interests so that it is a win-win situation for all."

In addition to the many volunteers, the FRG has an added asset.

"Having FRG assistants is a huge help," adds Wiginton. "Families now know that there is always someone who will consistently be there. They are paid to be there as opposed to a volunteer that may not be able to be there all the time.

Aside from a host of resources available to Army spouses, children, retirees

and widows, critically important information is shared.

"Tricare is a good example," explains Stone. "If a family leaves an area for more than 30 days they need to re-enroll in their Tricare region. FRG is an opportunity for families to ask the experts the questions so that they don't leave without the answers they need."

The FRG building at Stewart is a second home to Army families. It is a place where spouses meet and children play.

"Every Wednesday at 11 a.m. we have the waiting spouse's support group," says Wiginton. "They come in with their children. The kids play together and the spouses get to know each other. I have seen life-long friendships formed."

Working in support of FRG is a very personal experience for both Stone and Wiginton.

"I too am married to a Soldier," remarks Stone. "I've been there and done that. I understand the difficulties. I understand that the washing machine

is going to explode when that Soldier walks out the door because it's happened. All of us in this agency care deeply. As a result, you can't leave the job at work. You take it home."

Wiginton nodded her head slowly in agreement.

"I've come from a poor background and I know what its like worrying about if there is a meal. These are the cases that are the hardest. It's really hard on our spouses when you have two or three little ones to care for by yourself. I feel for them especially at a time when their Soldier is gone."

Beth Stone has some simple and proven advice, however.

"If you take advantage of the FRG resources, you'll be able to make it. FRG is your opportunity to remain informed about what's going on with your Soldier."

If you don't know who your FRG is, you can call 767-1257 or visit Building 87 at Stewart, or 1287 at Hunter, or call 315-6816.

CPAC recruits youth for summer hire

Students who are 16 years of age at the time of appointment and are enrolled or have been accepted for enrollment as degree-seeking (certification, diploma, etc.) students; and are taking at least a half-time course load in an accredited school, may apply for the following positions as temporary appointment through Aug. 4:

•**Position:** Laborer, WG-3502-02

Salary: \$11.58 - \$13.52 per hour

•**Position:** File clerk, GS-0305-02

Salary: \$10.09 - \$12.70 per hour

•**Both opens April 9 and closes May 11**

First cutoff is April 30

Work Schedule: Full time

Duty Station: Fort Stewart or Hunter Army Airfield

Duties: **Laborer** will perform manual labor tasks requiring the use of common hand and power tools to include one or a combination of the following tasks. **File clerk** will perform routine duties related to the establishment and maintenance of files and records. Application should be submitted to Civilian Personnel Advisory Center in Building 253 at Stewart. Call 767-5051 for more information.

TRAINED From Page 1A

The Soldiers going through the lanes seemed to agree with the commander as they gained more confidence in their ability to carry out their warrior tasks and drills.

"It (the training) is a lot more realistic than I remember," said Staff Sgt. Mitchell Holmes. "It's very realistic and the instructors are very knowledgeable."

"This is some outstanding training," said Sgt. 1st Class James Guest. "I received some very interesting training

on movement under fire and also treating a casualty."

During the first week of the exercise, Soldiers trained on their war fighting skills soon followed by a two-day validation and testing phase.

"We would be doing the Soldiers and their families an injustice if we did not do all that we can to ensure the necessary training has been done prior to going into a combat situation," said 3rd Sustainment Bde, STB Command Sgt.

Maj. Robert Tolbert. "We (STB) have to have a sense of knowing that we have done all that we can in getting Soldiers prepared to deploy."

"I wanted to see everyone get fair evaluations, not just check the blocks," Hayes added. "Everyone must understand that this may be one of the last opportunities to get this warrior task training (for the STB and 3rd Sustainment Bde) before actually deploying to Iraq."



Photos by Master Sgt. Rodney Williams

Above: *Spc. Nathaniel King, HHC STB, ensures he has control of (detainee) Pfc. Carly Gilliland of 92nd Chem. "Search a detainee" was one of the warrior tasks being tested during the STB's validation training during a recent MRE at Fort Stewart.*

Left: *Sgt. 1st Class Kenneth Arnold, 3rd Sustainment Bde., takes aim at a sniper during an "individual movement technique" exercise.*



Spc. Ricardo Branch

An Iraqi army soldier screens a man's eyes during the recruitment drive March 29 at Camp Ramadi.

RECRUIT From Page 1A

"This is the first time we held the drive here at the Ramadi Training Center," he said.

Those who failed the screenings were sent to civil affairs personnel, who assessed their job skills for future employment.

"If the individual is too old or fails one of the tests, we take down the skills he has and look into seeing what kinds of jobs are available," said Marine Cpl. John Trosper Jr., with the 5th Battalion, 10th Marines Civil Affairs Group.

Military personnel were hoping for a total of 450 potential recruits over the three-day period, but by the end of the first day they exceeded that number by 100. More than 1,500 Ramadi locals turned out to become new recruits in the Army with more than 700 being shipped off and more than 500 pre-screened for the next recruitment drive.

"As the area keeps getting secure more people will turn out to do their part in helping serve the Al Anbar region," Mahmoud said.

He said that each recruit who enlisted will travel to the Iraqi Army basic training in Habbaniyah where they will learn how to be a Soldier.

"When they get back from basic training they will return here to Camp Ramadi and fall under the 1-7 Iraqi Army Division," Mahmoud said. "We will then send them to units where they can help in the stability and security of the region."

Schmitt agreed with the Iraqi sergeants major on the benefit of the Iraqi recruits returning to Ramadi as Soldiers.

"It's a good thing all around," he said. "The recruits get to serve in their hometown and provide security for their communities."

"In the big scheme of things it's the IA and IPs who will be making Iraq safer," Schmitt said. "By them coming here today to secure their own town, they are taking charge and ultimately allowing for a time when U.S. forces will be able to leave Iraq."

3rd BCT gets closer to 'home'

Sgt. Natalie Rostek
3rd BCT Public Affairs

FOB HAMMER, Iraq – Fort Benning's 3rd Brigade Combat Team Soldiers settled into Iraq and everyday add a little more comfort to their temporary home.

The 3rd Infantry Division unit recently arrived at Forward Operating Base Hammer.

"Before we got here, the perimeter was controlled by Iraqi army checkpoints," said Command Sgt. Maj. James Pearson, 3rd BCT command sergeant major.

Now, the brigade is in control of security, Pearson added.

FOB Hammer has changed in appearance almost daily while undergoing construction efforts to change it from a range complex to an inhabitable military base, capable of housing more than 3,000 Soldiers.

The living conditions on FOB Hammer are improving. Currently, Soldiers are living in tents complete with air conditioning and heating systems.

There is one dining facility on the base that serves breakfast and dinner. Lunch is a packaged meal given to the Soldiers

through their company supply.

Another dining facility is in the process of being built, according to Sgt. 1st Class Rory Williams, a food operations noncommissioned officer with the 3rd BCT. This will allow for lunch to be served as well as breakfast and dinner, he said.

There is not yet a phone center for Soldiers to call home; however, a Morale, Welfare and Recreation center is in the works. The center will include both a gym with weights and a cardio room, Segovia phone center, library, temporary barber shop, video game room and a movie theater that serves popcorn.

There's also a laundry service with a 24-hour turn-around run by the 442nd Quartermaster Company out of Bellefonte, Pa. The 422nd also provides showers and clothing repair.

Soldiers of the 3rd BCT, stationed at FOB Hammer are able to receive mail. If your Soldier is assigned to 3rd BCT, you can send letters and packages to him or her. Include the Soldier's rank, full name, company and battalion that he or she is assigned to at APO AE 09308-5954.

Correction to Frontline:

There has been a change to the age requirement for participating in the upcoming league volleyball competition at Fort Stewart and Hunter Army Airfield. The article published in the April 5 edition of The Frontline stated minimum age for participation is 16-year-olds and up; however, the minimum age for participation has been changed to 18 and up. For more information, contact the Anthony Poore at 767-9336.

Job fair

Banconton Missionary Baptist Church will host a job fair, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., April 28. The church is located on Dunlevie Road in Walthourville.